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Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2006 9:43 PM  
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov  
Subject: MLPAComments: marine reserve

Hi folks,

I understand you are in the process of finalizing the marine reserve boundries in the Monterey. I'd like to add comments of support to including the breakwater (San Carlos Beach) area up through Lover's Point. I've been an avid diver in the Bay Area since 1972, except for a period of time at Humdoldt State University pursuring my degree in Natural Resource Planning in the late seventies, and some government work that followed.

I'm sure others have noted to you firsthand observations of the gradual degradation of the subaquatic environment in the area being considered for the reserve. I don't think anyone would honestly say that the pressures of training classes at the breakwater haven't contributed to the impact in that one well-defined area. That concentrated use may have even been beneficial in sparing impact on Otter St, McAbee and other sites. However, spearfishing wolf eels, rockfish, etc, and other recreational fishing have also degraded the underwater experience considerably along this whole stretch of coast.

I am writing not for myself but on behalf of my teenage sons, both of whom have taken up diving in the area, and their diving friends as well. In central California we are so fortunate to have these wonderful ecosystems accessable to our younger and future generations, it would be truly unconscionable to squander this opportunity for a world class marine reserve.

I've had the good fortune to be able to dive parts of Hawaii, the Carribean and the Mediterranean where poorly regulated fishing has had devastating effects, especially in comparison to marine reserves on the same or nearby islands. In the Monterey area this is apparent as well comparing the hard-to-access Bluefish cove of Pt Lobos with the areas around Lover's Point. Please consider expanding the marine reserve status to this entire stetch of coast, were the experiences, appreciation and undersstanding of these habitats can be afforded many more divers than is available (and appropriately limited) at Pt Lobos.

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